

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)
MARCH 20-21, 2007
PIERRE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - PIERRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Arneson, Linda Biffert, Betty Coon, Ryan Green, Vona Johnson, Grady Kickul, Thomas Kober, Gaye Mattke, Roxanne Rice, Betsy Valnes and Gary Wald. MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Czerny, Josia Fuerst, Jamie Mack and Philomine Moran. OTHERS PRESENT: Marilyn Kinsman (representing Department of Social Services-DSS), Bernie Grimme, Jerry Hofer, Shelly Pfaff, Matt Cain, Ann Van Loan, Linda Two Bulls, Colette Wagoner and Lorie Jirschele. Interpreters were Julie Paluch and Katie Peterson.

OPENING ACTIONS: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Chairperson Tom Kober welcomed everyone in attendance and asked that they introduce themselves. MEETING PROTOCOL – Tom explained the meeting protocol. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS – Tom turned the meeting over to Grady who introduced Marilyn Kinsman, the new DSS Director of Adult Services and Aging. She fills the position vacated when Gail Ferris retired. Grady stated that he appreciated everything that Gail did for the SILC over the years. The Department of Human Services (DHS) will recommend Marilyn as Gail's replacement on the SILC, and Grady has asked Marilyn to attend SILC meetings prior to her appointment. Grady then introduced the Secretary of the Department of Human Services, Jerry Hofer who had come to meet SILC members and share a few remarks. Secretary Hofer noted that it was a pleasure to be at the meeting. He stated that this past year had been a great opportunity to step up into a higher level of government, and that he had been focusing on getting out and meeting all the boards, councils, committees and organizations with whom DHS has involvement with. Secretary Hofer indicated that previously he had been with the DSS, and most recently with the

Department of Health. He added that he appreciated the opportunity to meet with the members and then opened up the floor for comments and questions. Mark told Secretary Hofer that he had met him before while working on a NAMI consumer group and expected to work with him on future issues. Secretary Hofer said that he would look forward to it. Tom and Grady thanked Secretary Hofer for being there. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – SILC staff asked that SILC appointments be added under her Executive Secretary's Report. **MOTION MADE (M) TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED, SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).** APPROVAL OF DECEMBER SILC MINUTES – Mark asked for an explanation of the motion on page 11 of the December minutes referencing approval of the Funding Sub-committee recommendations. SILC staff explained that the motion to accept the recommendations passed, but that implementation was delayed. How to implement the recommendations was not yet decided, but was due to come before the Council today. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER 2006 MINUTES – MSC.**

TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: Shelly asked to step out of role and to be able to address the SILC as Executive Director of the Coalition. Tom granted her request. She stated that the Coalition had helped to revise the SD ADA Resource Directory, and that if anyone would like to have copies, please let her know so she could bring them tomorrow. She stressed the value of this resource and encouraged its wide dissemination.

DRS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – Grady stated that Secretary Hofer was a supporter of the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and that staff and programs have been working well under his direction. Grady said that the past year has been a difficult one for the SILC because DHS has been repeatedly faced with funding issues. This has become divisive. He feels it has pitted the SILC against the CILs and the CILs against each other, and that funding issues are diverting the SILC

and the CILs focus. Grady said that as a director of a State agency and a signer of the State Plan, he was concerned about the future. He then passed around an article from the March 7th Capitol Journal entitled "Budget reflects slowdown in Federal aid". Grady read some of the content of the article. He referenced millions of dollars in cuts in funding to DSS in the area of Medicaid, closing or downsizing of the Career Learning Centers under the Department of Labor (DOL) and the forcing of DRS to implement as Order of Selection last October putting hundreds of consumers on a waiting list for services. Grady stressed that this shift in federal funding has seriously impacted the SILC, CILs and independent living (IL) in South Dakota, and we all are losing our focus and driving wedges between one4 another. He called for all stakeholders to rise above this, reunite, collaborate and return to our purpose. He commented that what has been occurring is not healthy for IL in SD, and recognizing the small likelihood of new money for IL in SD in the foreseeable future, he urged that we work together for the good of the whole. Grady apologized for the lecture, but stated that he was justifiably concerned about the future of IL in SD. SFY07 SILC BUDGET UPDATE – Staff distributed copies of the current SFY2007 SILC Budget (see attached). Grady noted that Greg Brandner had left his IL Program Specialist position in January, and this is a task he would have carried out. Grady added that Greg would be missed by DRS, the CILs and by IL in SD. Grady said that this budget sheet was reflective of where the IL budget was presently. The HMAAD program has been obligated so now is at zero (the \$7,022 remaining for CSD will be billed out by May). Shelly indicated that the SILC travel line item is over-expended even without this meeting. The upcoming CIL staff training (April) expenses must also be considered. A member asked if CSD was the only Center with funds remaining; Grady answered yes. Shelly stated that \$1,000 in strategic planning (SP) funds had just been awarded to the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) and that monies had been earmarked for two different CIL events, so the budget does not have \$6,528 in SP funds remaining. Grady added that the

\$69,560 shown in HMAD funds would be expended, but \$2,677 in SP funds may remain at the end of the year. Gary noted that the Budget Committee has discussed purchasing software for the unspent Quad Squad monies, as they would report on later in the meeting.

IL PROGRAM SPECIALIST POSITION UPDATE – Grady was pleased to announce that Denise White has been chosen to replace Greg Brandner as DRS IL Program Specialist. She will start on March 26th. Denise is a registered nurse and has spent the last three years as a program specialist with the Division of DD. Grady stated that she has extensive experience working with Medicaid and Medicaid waivers, Assisted Daily Living Services (ADLS) waiver and this experience will be very helpful in working with the providers. Grady noted that the Division was pleased to have hired a person with Denise’s knowledge and abilities.

ADLS WAIVER UPDATE – Grady noted that in the past, the SILC agreed to serve in an advisory capacity to the ADLS program. Now, the Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) is substantially increasing performance expectations of all federal waiver programs. At the last SILC meeting, members spoke about a quality management strategy. Jamie Mack was appointed to serve on a new Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Committee. Jamie will be asked to report on the QA/QI activities of this group at future SILC meetings. Grady added that an ADLS waiver renewal was completed and submitted in February. Currently, 125 people are on the ADLS waiver, which has made the difference for them of living at home instead of in a nursing home.

RSA 2007 ONSITE MONITORING REVIEW – Grady shared that WRDI will receive an onsite review in June instead of PFC as previously announced. Staff distributed copies of the RSA letter to WRDI regarding the June 18-20 review that will be conducted by a three-person team; Management Program Analyst, Elizabeth Akinola, a fiscal person and one other (see attached). RSA has never done a review under this new format before, so we do not know what to expect. Ryan commented that he appreciated Grady’s comments; he urged the SILC and CILs to look past funding issues and work together. Mark

suggested sharing duplicated resources among the centers i.e., data processing. Ann stated that as President of the Association of CILs, she could not speak for NAAP, but the other three centers agreed that the funding formula was viable even though they feel some of the data used was inaccurate. Grady was asked if DRS had received an onsite review checklist from RSA. He answered “yes”, and he stated that the Designated State Units were encouraged to submit many items ahead of time i.e., minutes, policies, etc. Grady explained that WRDI was randomly selected to receive an onsite review. Ann added that when WRDI received the call that they had been chosen, staff began pulling together all the required information; they have been in continual contact with RSA throughout the process. Ann shared that Bob Michels had agreed to do a training session in advance of the review at no cost to WRDI. Grady noted that SD has 60 days after the reviews to rectify anything not in compliance. He explained that 2007 is year one of a three-year cycle and that he had volunteered SD to be a first-year state. He is expecting there probably will not be another SD CIL reviewed until sometime within the next three-year cycle.

DSBVI DIRECTOR’S REPORT: DIVISION UPDATE – Gaye stated that the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) was also preparing for the RSA onsite review and several conference calls had been held with RSA staff. She noted that in preparation of the State Plan, they must re-do the preprint and all the attachments and related numbering and dates have been changed. During the re-write process, they are looking at content as well. Two public meetings are scheduled: April 12th at the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and April 20th in Pierre. Gaye added that they have also held focus groups in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. When the focus group process is completed, a consultant will review the report with the Board of SBVI. **BOARD UPDATE** – The Board of SBVI sponsored a table at Disability Awareness Day in February at the Capitol and helped to sponsor the Governors Awards Luncheon. Gaye announced that several

Board member terms, including Pat Czerny's, would be expiring so they will be soliciting nominations. She noted that the Workforce Development Council position on the Board has been vacant for quite some time.

SILC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: STRATEGIC PLANNING GRANT AWARDS REPORT – Shelly reported that \$2,677.60 in strategic planning (SP) funds has not yet been obligated. WRDI will be holding a future event supported by SP funds and Ann will speak to that later in the meeting. 2007 CIL STAFF TRAINING EVENT – Staff distributed the proposed agenda for the CIL staff training scheduled for April 10-12 in Oacoma/Chamberlain (see attached). Gary noted that Eric Vetter would be presenting on systems advocacy with him, not Eric Weiss. Shelly stated that discussion on the four core services will be a key portion of the training this year. Last year, a little over \$7,000 was spent on the CIL staff training. Grady said that he would attend the training the first day and that IL Program Specialist Denise White would attend the entire event. He congratulated the CILs and the SILC on the training agenda, especially the focus on the four core services. 2007 REGION VIII TRAINING EVENT – WYOMING – Shelly deferred to Gary to explain the upcoming Region VIII training event. Gary stated that three of the CIL directors met on March 14th in Oacoma. They concluded that since the 2007 Region VIII training was the closest to SD that it has been in quite some time, that this was an opportunity to send some CIL staff. Gary asked the Council to consider releasing some of the 2008 CIL staff training funds in order to send staff from three centers to the June 26-27 Region VIII training in Wyoming. Gary added that the centers agreed to car-pool in order to save costs. Grady noted that the training dates were technically in the next SFY, but he was a little hesitant about committing next year's training funds. One member suggested looking into a web cast of the event to help save on travel costs. Gary agreed to estimate the costs involved to send CIL staff members to the Wyoming event and to present it to the Council

tomorrow. Tom asked the Budget Committee to also take a look at the proposal during their meeting. 704 REPORTING SOFTWARE OVERVIEW & RECOMMENDATION – Shelly deferred to Gary to speak about the search for software for the centers. Gary reported that Pat Czerny, Gary Oeden, Greg Brandner, Matt Cain, Beth Montour, Vicki Kerkvliet and himself met on January 29th to discuss the purchase of 704 reporting software for all four centers. Gary was impressed with software from a company called the Center for Accessible Living (CAL). He broke down costs for the software for four centers, which totaled \$14,900. The company agreed to discount the yearly backup fee for all centers from \$3,200 to \$2,700. The centers would each be responsible for picking up their portion of the yearly fee. Matt stated that he had located other software being developed by a CIL in Austin, Texas and that it includes all updates RSA requires. Matt has put a call into the center for more information. Discussion on purchasing the same, new software for all CILs ensued. Some of the points brought forward were:

- Concern over ongoing license costs
- All four centers use different software
- CA & IA are satisfied with their CAL software
- CAL software creates case files in addition to 704 reports
- Compared to other software SD is using, CAL costs are very reasonable
- Several types of training will be needed on how to implement new software and how to use it

Gary explained that three CIL directors (OIL, PFCIL and WRDI) would like to negotiate further. They asked the SILC to use \$6,900 in unspent Quad Squad monies for 2007 & 2008 to purchase the software for the four centers. One member asked for assurance that the CAL software was in line with what RSA required. Gary answered that he had not received any information to the contrary. SILC staff suggested that conversation be limited and that this discussion be taken up again during the Budget Committee report.

Approved

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One member reminded the SILC that there might be a group willing to take over the Quad Squad Program. Grady added that they would be speaking of next year's funding. Gary reiterated that timing was perfect to update software for the centers; special focus was being placed on defining the four core services during the upcoming CIL staff training. ACTION ON REVISED SILC WORK PLAN – Shelly asked members if they were ready to approve the revised SILC Work Plan or to let it go since it will need to be updated again once the new SPIL is approved. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REVISED SILC WORK PLAN – MS.** Ann asked if action on the revised work plan could be postponed until tomorrow as she found some of the points unclear. Tom indicated that there was a motion on the floor. Grady asked if it was their intent to discuss the work plan or to have action on it. **MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION – MS.** The vote was yes – two and no – three, so the motion was defeated. Discussion continued on the work plan. Ann requested that the ADA be added on page one. Shelly interjected that the work plan is a living document and that it will be revised again in another three months. Gaye suggested that this process would be better served in committee. Tom called for action on the original motion on the floor to accept the revise SILC work plan. **MOTION CARRIED.** The motion to accept the revised SILC plan was approve unanimously. 2008-2010 STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING OVERVIEW – Staff distributed a handout entitled “FY2008-2010 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Overview (see attached). Shelly reviewed its content and discussion ensued. Gaye offered to make their scheduled public meetings a joint endeavor if the SILC wished. Grady stated that the State plan preprint process was mostly filling in the blanks. Some of its language is pretty standard. He asked that the Strategic Planning Committee come back tomorrow with recommendations on how many public meetings the SILC would hold, and added that it was critical that the decision be made at this meeting. SILC NOMINATIONS – Shelly reported that Linda Biffert, Tom Kober, Ryan Green and Patrick Czerny's terms end as of July 1st. She

shared that Tom was not eligible for reappointment because he has served two consecutive three-year terms. Because Linda had served one shortened term as a replacement for another member, she would be eligible to serve again. Ryan can also be re-appointed if he desires to be nominated. Shelly indicated that staff would be preparing nomination information and complete the dissemination of it. Grady reminded members that Marilyn Kinsman's name would be sent to the Governor's office, as a recommendation for the DSS vacancy.

SILC FUNDING SUB-COMMITTEE & SPIL SIGNATORIES RECOMMENDATIONS: Ryan reported that the SILC Funding Sub-committee last met on February 15th in Fort Pierre with the SILC signatories. SILC staff was also in attendance. A lengthy discussion ensued including the accuracy of the funding formula, correspondence received by sub-committee and Director comments. One question that kept coming up was how accurate is the census data that they are using. The response was that millions of dollars are awarded annually based upon the use of census data, both federal and state, and the sub-committee believes it is valid data for this purpose. Grady stated that he appreciated the opportunity for Gaye, Tom and himself to sit down with the Funding Sub-committee and Executive Committee and express their concerns. The entire process was handled very professionally and diplomatically. He stated that there has been a significant amount of work done on the part of the sub-committee. Ryan read the following premise for implementation developed by the Funding Sub-committee: The FY07 SILC funding levels for the CILs will become the base budget for FY08. Any additional funds that might become available, and any remaining funds, will be disseminated based upon the funding formula. The question remains as to what impact the formula will have on moving towards greater equity in funding without any funding increases in the foreseeable future. The question was asked if the formula was based on all IL centers being equal. Ryan stated that because of its unique situation, both

not being a CIL and being funded solely by state funds, CSD would not be considered using the formula. The four CILs' budgets would stay where they are now, with any future adjustments, based on increased funding levels or unspent dollars, going to WRDI (77%) and OIL (23%). If SILC funding receives a 3% cost of living allocation (COLA), it would be divided between WRDI and OIL in the same manner. Ryan stressed that variables within the formula will change in the future thus the formula will need to be reviewed and adjusted accordingly. Tom asked to curtail this discussion until tomorrow. Grady added that there were still questions to clarify, and he said that to his understanding, the formula would only apply to new money in the future, that the base budgets for WRDI, PFCIL, NAAP, OIL and CSD for next year would remain the same as this year and that the formula could be updated every year. Roxanne noted that the formula would also apply to any unspent monies at the end of a fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SFY08 BUDGET: Grady stated that Gary, Budget Committee Chairperson, would come tomorrow with recommendations for the SFY08 budget. The question was raised as to whether they could expect a 3% COLA. Grady answered that there would be no COLA due to the Federal cuts that were tied into the State budget. Gary asked for other topics for Budget Committee consideration. Shelly mentioned that priorities for the FY09 budget would need to be addressed.

The meeting recessed at 4:10 p.m. and members met in their respective committees.

The meeting reconvened at 8:34 a.m. on 03/21/07.

INTRODUCTIONS – MEETING PROTOCOL: Tom asked everyone present to introduce themselves and he reminded members of meeting protocol. Shelly disseminated and explained three handouts: SILC member email addresses and phone numbers, two letters regarding the resignation of APRIL's President, NCIL Action

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Alert and email communication from NCIL Chairperson Bob Michaels regarding funding for centers on independent living (see attached).

COMMITTEE REPORTS: BUDGET COMMITTEE – The committee passed around copies of SFY2008 Recommendations (see attached). Gary reported that they had discussed the \$6,960 in unspent 2007 Quad Squad monies. They agreed to recommend allocating those funds to the four CILs for software, and if that were not possible, those funds should be allocated using the formula. They also recommended moving \$2,500 in strategic planning funds to the SILC travel line item. One member asked for clarification on the software issue. Gary stated that the centers would first try to negotiate a lower price on the software. Then \$6,960 for this year would be split between four centers for the software. An estimated \$1,500-2,000 would be the remaining responsibility of each center. Grady said that basically, the centers would cost share the balance. He asked Gary if all the center directors were in agreement on purchasing and paying for the new software. Gary said that he could not speak for Marla, but that the idea would be offered to NAAP. Grady stressed that it was very important that all centers get on board with this plan and that it should be done very quickly as the funds must be expended by the end of May. Grady asked Gary to keep in close contact on this issue with the Division. He added that the chosen software should also be available in the DRS central office and he asked Gary to include one more license in the proposal. Grady stated that DRS would find separate funding for their share, not as part of the Quad Squad monies. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO PURCHASE SOFTWARE FOR FOUR IL CENTERS – MSC.** Gary continued with SFY08 budget recommendations. Budget Committee members concurred that funds slated for the Quad Squad for SFY08 should be applied to the formula.

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Earlier in the year, \$2,000 had been transferred from strategic planning funds to SILC travel. The Budget Committee recommended leaving the strategic planning line item at the \$8,000 level for SFY08, because of increased travel costs. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SFY 2008 RECOMMENDATIONS – MSC.** Grady thanked the Budget Committee, Funding Sub-committee and all SILC members for resolving these issues. He noted their willingness to compromise and all their hard work, which established a foundation on which to move forward. Gary passed out copies of Budget Committee proposed funding priorities for SFY 2009 (see attached) and read each item. **MOTION MADE TO APPROVE THE SFY 2009 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS – MS.**

One member and a center director expressed confusion as to what point had been reached on the agenda and to exactly what was being voted on. Grady stated that they were still on the Budget Committee report, and they had not yet reached Dialogue/Action on either the SILC Funding Sub-committee and SPIL Signatories Recommendations on the SFY08 Budget or SILC SFY09 Funding Priorities. Mark withdrew his motion. Ann stated that she wanted to be included on the record on how WRDI stands on the proposed budget and asked permission to speak. One member suggested going back to Committee Reports on the agenda so the meeting could get back on track. Tom agreed and turned the floor over to the next committee to report. **STRATEGIC PLANNING/ADVOCACY COMMITTEE** – Linda asked Shelly to report on the meeting of the Strategic Planning/Advocacy Committee. Shelly indicated that the SILC is required to hold more than one public meeting to gather input. Committee members suggested holding one in Rapid City on May 3rd, which is right before the Easter Seals Caregivers Conference. The second would be held in Sioux Falls the week of May 7th. They recommend a drop-in format be utilized for both to accommodate peoples' schedules. Locations with access to transit services would be used. The Committee also suggested that the SILC seek assistance from the CILs and disability organizations like the SD Association of the

Blind and SD Association of the Deaf to publicize the meetings. In conjunction with the public meeting process, a survey would be created to ask participants to prioritize services including the four core services. Linda commented that the work plan would be revised in three months and she asked members to get their corrections and ideas to the Committee soon. Consensus from the full SILC was to go ahead with the two public meetings.

DIALOGUE/ACTION ON SILC FUNDING SUB-COMMITTEE AND SPIL SIGNATORIES RECOMMENDATIONS AND SFY08

BUDGET: Ann asked for time to express her feelings about the Funding Sub-committee and the funding formula. She asked how the Sub-committee could compare the centers when WRDI is required to cover 28,706 square miles with only 4 independent living specialists and a total of nine employees; PFC has nine independent living specialists and OIL has 4.5. She noted that WRDI, CSD, PFC, and OIL must earn their contract dollars, but that NAAP is not required to adhere to the rules. Ann expressed frustration at the lack of new funding (including COLA) from the SILC, the State and Federal Governments. She reiterated Grady's statement about the lack of funding pitting CILs against one another and asked members if they saw the struggles that the centers go through. Ann articulated her disappointment at the lack of information about the CILs that was included in the SILC member orientation. She complemented the Funding Sub-committee for all their hard work on the funding formula, noting that it was not an easy task. In conclusion, Ann expressed anger for the current situation between the SILC and CILs, for not being kept in the "loop" about SILC funding and for having to go back to her Board of Directors and tell them that WRDI would not be able to hire the part-time employee that they had been considering. **MOTION TO**

ACCEPT THE SILC FY09 FUNDING PRIORITIES – MS. At this point, Gaye joined the meeting. Discussion ensued on the motion. Staff asked if action should be taken on implementation of the funding formula beyond 2008. Linda said that it was her understanding that they had only accepted the funding formula, but

not yet the implementation. She asked if they intended on voting on implementation every year. Gary said that when members voted to approve the SFY08 budget, it included implementation of the formula.

MOTION AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE SILC FUNDING PRIORITIES WITHDRAWN BY THOSE INTRODUCING THEM. MOTION TO ACCEPT FORMULA IMPLEMENTATION ON A REGULAR BASIS OF NEW AND UNALLOCATED FUNDS –

MSC. Attention turned back to the SFY09 SILC budget priorities.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SFY2009 FUNDING PRIORITIES –

MSC. Shelly stated that staff would prepare a letter on Tom's behalf to the Division on the SFY09 recommendations. At this time, a member inquired as to the SILC's responsibility, as outlined in the manual, to assist the CILs in securing additional funding. Grady answered that it was the SILC's responsibility to advocate for IL. In this capacity, the SILC tries to secure more funds and advocates for more IL services. Roxanne added that the work plan states that the SILC will take part in state and national advocacy groups, and that is why they support members attending APRIL and NCIL national conferences. Another member stated that the SILC's role is to oversee federal and state funds for the CILs and to offer other supports, while each center has its own board of directors who supervise their own fund raising activities. Gaye stated that the major funding source of CILs in SD was through federal funds and that unfortunately, they could not expect an increase in the near future. Grady noted that SILC members can advocate locally by educating legislators about the benefits of IL, not for each individual center, but for IL as a whole. He added that advocating for more services rather than more dollars might have a greater impact. One member asked the Association of CILs to bring forth suggestions on how the SILC might offer more support. Another member mentioned trying to heal the divisions between SILC and centers and asked if NAAP would be represented at future meetings. Gary responded that NAAP would have to share their activities in quarterly and year-end reports, but they have decided not to part of the Association. Ann read a letter from the attorney for NAAP

regarding their resignation from the Association. She stated that although NAAP requested that the Association desist calling itself a statewide organization, they have decided to continue to do so since the three CILs cover territories across the State. Gary added that as the representative for the CILs on the Council, he continued to share all SILC information with NAAP, but that they were not receiving any communication back. Grady stated that he appreciated everyone's' comments. He said that there were two main issues. The first, the choice in terms of services and accountability (meeting the standards) goes back a number of years. DRS and the SILC have wound up in a reactive position instead of a proactive one. They have not done a good job dealing with issues of data and outcome. Grady stated that DRS and the SILC had no control over Part C monies, for that the centers must look to RSA. He asked the SILC to help define the accountability of services offered by the centers so that they would be held up to equal standards. He stated that there was no definitive answer at this time, but that they must find a way to become proactive and to move forward as an organization. Ann stated that WRDI would need additional funding support for the new software. She asked Roxanne about a public transit grant that was reported on at a previous meeting and Roxanne indicated she would cover that topic during her DOT report.

DOT NEWS AND ISSUES: Roxanne indicated that the transit reauthorization process took approximately six years. A continuing resolution entitled Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, a Legacy for Users (SAFETELU) has been approved. In it, the federal government has cut funding back to 2006 levels, but the State did receive a large increase in public transit funding. Roxanne explained that in 2009, the Federal Highway Fund was projected to run out of money. The President's Commission has been working to resolve this problem. She stated that there are 70 federal committees that focus on transportation and SD is very involved on the national level. SD DOT has been

trying to keep the focus on rural transportation. The US Secretary of Transportation has been pushing for public/private partnerships in transportation, which Roxanne indicated does not work well in SD. In addition, cuts in airport funding have been proposed. Roxanne stated that DOT has been fighting for transit funding in SD, but that transit nationally has been growing at such a fast pace, they cannot keep up. The question arose as to whether public transit ridership had increased. Roxanne answered that the demand for expanded hours, days and specialized services has increased dramatically, but that they cannot keep up with the demand for funding. Transit providers have met with DOT several times to explore ways to acquire more funding and to market their services. Roxanne explained that SD funds public transit with more than \$700,000 from the highway fund. Recently, two federal bills were passed that cut a total of \$2,350,000 from their budget. Now they have to decide what programs to cut because of the loss of revenues. After being given permission to step out of role, Shelly, as Coalition Executive Director stated that they had advocated for transit funding at the federal level. Both Senator Thune and Johnson's offices called to inform the Coalition about the status of proposed transit funding cuts. Shelly sent out alerts to over 100 people throughout the State. She recommended that all citizens provide ongoing input to their legislators on issues that touch their lives, especially now when social programs are not a federal priority.

DSS NEWS AND ISSUES: Marilyn reported that because of the influx of returning service men and women, the Department of Social Services (DSS) was working hard to find supports for persons with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and for those who needed wound care and other services. DSS put out a request for proposal (RFP) to serve persons with (TBI) and spinal cord injury (SCI) in November of 2006, which closed on January 25, 2007. Both hospitals and nursing homes had been contacted to see if they would be willing to offer a separate unit to treat people with TBI and

SCI so that patients could receive quality care in state. Unfortunately, no responses were received. She indicated that several DSS employees went with employees from Avera McKenna Healthcare to tour a facility in Sheldon, Iowa serving people with TBI. Marilyn stated that during the last legislative session, a bill was passed, which authorized a long-term care study for SD. They hired an outside firm to conduct the study, compile the results and then submit their findings to DSS and to the Governor. Their main focus was how to take care of elderly residents of SD in the future. Marilyn announced that the Discovery Center in Pierre was featuring a display on aging.

CIL REPORTS: Tom transferred control of the meeting to Ryan during the CIL reports. CSD – Tom reported that the murder trial of a deaf woman in Sioux Falls had received national attention. He said that he took issue with one reporter, who stated that deaf people should be exempt from the death penalty. Tom responded with a letter, which said that deaf people are equal to everyone else. He asked members to watch for a television show entitled “Seeing Through Deaf Eyes” that would be aired on PBS that evening. CSD’s HMAID monies are projected to run out at the end of this month. CSD employees are working with students at the School for the Deaf on mainstreaming and deaf pride. Their goal is to meet with youth every couple of weeks. Tom noted that the SD Association of the Deaf would hold their next meeting in June at Camp Lakodia. Ryan thanked Tom for his collaboration on the Sioux Falls ADA celebration. OIL – Gary reported that long-time IL Specialist, Linda Gauger resigned last Friday. He stated that Linda was an important part of OIL and that she would be missed. He has convinced her to stay on part-time for now. OIL’s HMAID budget was obligated in mid January. Part of the funds raised by their annual Harley raffle will go to support some smaller HMAID projects. Gary noted that OIL was sponsoring ADA training in May with funding from the Rocky Mountain ADA & IT Center. Ryan Green has agreed to do the training. Gary said that he has been very

involved with two housing organizations in Watertown and Aberdeen including Homes Are Possible, Inc. (HAPI) that develop housing opportunities for people with disabilities. He stated that several persons in the area had been successful in securing Governor's houses. He noted that OIL had been approached to develop a Governor's house on an open lot. HAPI is selling the lot below normal cost and will donate the home, and the City of Aberdeen will waive the fees. Money for the project will be loaned at a 1% interest rate. The home will have no steps and will be fully accessible. He indicated that this might be a risky proposition, but he felt they had a good chance to sell the home immediately. Gary spoke of a citywide vote in Aberdeen on a proposed beef processing plant. If the facility is allowed to open in Aberdeen, there is the possibility of an additional 500 families moving to the area. This could definitely affect the services that OIL provides. The projection is that the majority of the new employees would be Spanish speaking, so an interpreter may have to be hired for the City of Aberdeen and all service providers. PFCIL – Matt reported that with the help of SILC strategic planning funds, PFCIL is hosting a financial planning seminar on March 29th at Augustana College with trainer Gabe Nelson. He noted that summer transition classes would begin in June and continue through August. Twenty youth will be supported in attending entirely through private grants. Matt announced that in October of this year, PFCIL would celebrate its 25th anniversary. A sub-committee of their Board is planning a celebratory event. SILC members will be invited to attend. Matt noted that PFCIL is working with former legislator Elaine Roberts, Augustana College and other disability organizations to host a two-day conference to bring awareness to autism and autism spectrum disorder. On a final note, Matt announced that Marty Grimme, a PFCIL employee in Yankton was recognized as Employee of the Year at this year's Governor's Awards. WRDI – Ann reported that Ryan Green and Shelly Schock would provide ADA training at the center. She corrected her statement from earlier in the meeting regarding the number of WRDI employees; they have 10

employees, six full-time and four part-time. Ann distributed three handouts to members that she thought might be of interest: ADA Training Announcement, Current List of WRDI Board Members and the WRDI Quarterly Report (see attached). At this time, the meeting was turned back over to Tom.

SD LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE: As Executive Director of the Coalition, Shelly gave a sense of what they were keeping track of on a daily basis during the 82nd Legislative Session. She indicated that the new format of the legislative alerts helped to outline the many steps of the legislative process. Of all the Bills tracked by the Coalition, the Governor signed 27 and 32 were deferred to the “41st day”. Some of the bills tracked in the legislative alerts involved bow hunters with disabilities, cochlear implants, Medicaid for children, long-term care, and appropriations for tax relief for people with disabilities and the elderly. Shelly noted that the Coalition was not only interested in bills that affected persons with disabilities, but also those that affected each one of us i.e., public meeting laws, health insurance, minimum wage, smoking and mandatory age for school attendance. Coalition members followed one bill in particular; this bill was termed the “People First Language Bill”. Shelly stated that Representative Bill Thompson was the key sponsor of this bill and Ryan Green was one of the key people responsible for its language. Shelly noted that the disability community does not always speak with one voice, but with some amending, the bill was ready. The day of the committee hearing, there was outstanding proponent testimony and no opponent testimony, but the bill was deferred to the 41st day anyway. Shelly sensed that committee members felt that the content of the bill did not need to be legislated. On the bright side, the House brought forth House Concurrent Resolution 1007, which passed with only one dissenting vote (see attached). Shelly stressed that this process has created increased awareness of people first language and that it was all brought about by one person’s passion and refusal to give up. This was a lesson of what one individual can do.

Approved

05-31-07

Shelly said that they would be watching the wording of future legislation and letting the authors know what language would be preferable. Mark asked what happened to the Bill relating to mental health and Shelly said that she would visit with him on this later as she did not have that information with at this time. Gaye noted that the authors of this bill had educated many people and that the Legislative Research Council was listening. One member asked whom the one person was who voted against the concurrent resolution; staff answered that it was Senator Brock Greenfield from Clarke County. Several members complimented Shelly on the wonderful job she does on session updates. Shelly asked that anyone wanting to be on the Coalition list serve, please let her know. She stated that the Coalition might do a survey of their members to see how many of them act upon information that they receive from the legislative updates, and to inquire about whether people with disabilities and their family members are involved in this process. It is her experience that legislators do not hear from a significant number of persons with disabilities or their families on the issues.

OTHER BUSINESS: Gary stated that approximately \$6,642 would be needed out of next year's \$11, 154 CIL Staff Training budget to send CIL staff to the Region VIII Conference. **MOTION TO USE NO MORE THAN \$6,642 FROM THE SFY2008 CIL STAFF TRAINING BUDGET TO SEND CIL STAFF TO THE REGION VIII CONFERENCE IN WYOMING – MSC.** Shelly stated that one member had expressed interest in attending also and asked how that should be handled. Grady stated that those costs would come out of SILC member travel. Gary noted that the NCIL National Conference would be held in July in Washington, DC and that Mark Arneson had expressed interest in attending. Gary indicated that it was important to have SD representation at this conference and that Mark would also have the opportunity to visit with our congressional delegation. **MOTION TO SEND MARK ARNESON, AS THE SILC REPRESENTATIVE, TO THE NCIL NATIONAL**

CONFERENCE – MS. Discussion ensued. One member suggested developing a talking point paper that Mark could bring with him to Washington. Mark said that he was going to request just that sort of document and he also asked members to email him ideas to bring forth to the congressional delegation. A vote was called for on the motion on the floor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Grady stated that he had one further comment on the question from this morning about advocacy; members and others must make regular contact with legislators to tell the IL story and to let them know what the needs are in SD. Tom reminded members that elections of officers would be held at the next meeting. Grady noted that the Executive Committee would bring forth a slate of officers, Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Member at Large. He added that this would not preclude other nominations from the floor. One member suggested that nametags be made for all members after new members had been appointed.

FUTURE ACTIONS: SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – After some discussion, staff was asked to plan the next meeting for May 31st and June 1st in Pierre/Ft. Pierre. ADJOURNMENT – **MOTION TO ADJOURN – MSC.** The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.